

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

02-55

LYNN B. HERMAN, MEMBER

HOUSE BOX 202020
MAIN CAPITOL BUILDING
HARRISBURG, PA 17120-2020
PHONE: (717) 787-8594

301 S. ALLEN STREET
ALLENWAY BLDG. / SUITE 102
STATE COLLEGE, PA 16801
PHONE: (814) 238-5477

130 N. FRONT STREET
PHILIPSBURG, PA 16866
PHONE: (814) 342-5411



House of Representatives

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

HARRISBURG

RECEIVED & INSPECTED
February 17, 2004

FEB 23 2004

FCC - MAILROOM

COMMITTEES

LOCAL GOVERNMENT, CHAIRMAN
EDUCATION
SUB-COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION
LEGISLATIVE DATA PROCESSING
CHAIRMAN
LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMMISSION
MAJORITY POLICY

PENN STATE FORUM
CO-CHAIRMAN
CHILDRENS CAUCUS
FIREFIGHTERS CAUCUS
SPORTSMEN'S CAUCUS
SUBSTANCE ABUSE CAUCUS

The Honorable Michael Powell
Chairman
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Dear Chairman Powell:

RECEIVED
MAY 13 2004
Distribution Center

I've been hearing from public safety leaders in my district and around the country – local police officers, firefighters, emergency response personnel and other first responders – about the alarming issue of public safety interference. The fact that public safety officials are concerned about their safety and the safety of those they protect makes me extremely concerned. In this new era of increased homeland security, the need to equip our first responders with rapid and reliable communications should be a top priority.

Interference to public safety communications is a growing problem in my legislative district in Centre County, Pennsylvania, and needs to be remedied in a comprehensive pro-active manner. We cannot continue with a "wait and see" approach to resolving interference as the risk to our public safety professionals and the American public is too great.

The fundamental cause of interference is the close proximity of public safety and commercial wireless operations within the 800 MHz spectrum band. In order to virtually eliminate the probability of interference occurring, the 800 MHz spectrum needs to be realigned. I am interested in a solution to this problem that accomplishes this goal while at the same time providing additional spectrum to public safety with no cost to the public safety organization and local governments that are now struggling with limited resources.

As time passes, our risks from this problem continue to grow. This is a critical issue for my constituents, our state, and our nation. I urge you to act expeditiously by prioritizing the safety and effectiveness of our public safety officials.

Sincerely,

Representative Lynn B. Herman
Chairman, House Local Government Committee
Pennsylvania House of Representatives

LBH/lis